

Chilly Night by **upsidedowncastle (cloverbee)**

Category: Stranger Things (TV 2016)

Genre: Fluff, Holding Hands, M/M, One Shot

Language: English

Characters: Mike Wheeler, Will Byers, mentions of the party

Relationships: Will Byers/Mike Wheeler

Status: Completed

Published: 2021-05-08

Updated: 2021-05-08

Packaged: 2022-04-01 01:09:59

Rating: General Audiences

Warnings: No Archive Warnings Apply

Chapters: 1

Words: 1,163

Publisher: archiveofourown.org

Summary:

Short story about how Will stays over at Mike's.

Set after season 2

Chilly Night

It was autumn 1984. It was the end of November and winter was getting closer. One could already feel the slowly falling temperatures. If one wakes up early, one could even see the breath taking shape of a light fog. But right now it was evening. It wasn't cold enough for the moisture to condense, but it was cold enough to believe the winter is already here.

With the sun disappearing behind the horizon, the warmth slowly left Mike's basement too. Mike and Will did get to feel the dropping temperature themselves, as many times before when Will stayed over at Wheeler's house.

It was more usual for them to meet up as a whole party, but today, Lucas and Dustin both had other stuff to do and couldn't join the two boys. After the recent events, Mike started to invite El to their meetings too, but most of the time Hopper didn't allow her to leave the house. This led to a great amount of fights between them in the past month. Lucas also invited Max to join them time to time, but Max was genuinely not interested in their Dungeons and Dragons meetings, so she rarely came over.

As a result, only Mike and Will met up at the basement today. They couldn't hold a DnD session by themselves though, and spent most of the day discussing stuff. School stuff, comic stuff, everything-what-has-happened-lately stuff.

Mike especially was very interested in talking about El, which Will didn't particularly mind, since he never really got to hear a lot. When he was brought back from the Upside Down, noone wanted to talk about her much. And Will never asked about her. In fact, he didn't want to remember that horrible week at all. But he got the basic information - she had cool superpowers, helped them saving him and was gone after that. If the explanations weren't filled with such enthusiasm, Will would be sure she was dead. Now, with her return, it got suddenly much easier for everyone to talk about El. And Mike talked about her much more than anybody else. Will believed that it must be because Mike always thought about her, and now, he can just say his thoughts out loud without reminding everyone that she's

gone. And now, it was also easier for Will to listen to it. Even though all the memories about Upside Down were brought back to him due to recent events, and the Mind Flayer made it even worse, when everyone talked about El and what cool things she can do with her mind, Will somehow felt better. Maybe safer? Definitely distracted.

By now, Mike stopped talking about El, and they were about to go to sleep. Whenever someone stays over at Mike's, they all sleep in the basement. The main reason for it was because all four of them just wouldn't be able to fit in Mike's room. But even now, when there are only two of them, Mike brought the mattresses for them in the basement, to keep up the tradition. Maybe it was also because Mike wouldn't want to sleep in his nice bed, while his friend needed to settle with a mattress on the cold floor. So now the two boys were lying, side-by-side, on their mattresses two inches apart, with large duvet sprawled out over them.

The lights were already out and after wishing each other good night, Will turned on to his stomach and shut his eyes. Lying a couple of minutes like this, Will could not relax. In spite of having a bed cover over him, he still felt the cold and it forced him to stay awake. He started shifting, partly to warm himself up by moving, partly to curl up a little and that's when he accidentally touched Mike's hand under the cover. Will instantly pulled his hand away a couple of inches and stopped moving, afraid of waking up Mike, who might have been dreaming already. In this short moment he got to feel how Mike's hand was basically burning, compared to Will's cold one. Will held still, settling with the pose he ended up with. Suddenly, Will felt the heat back on his hand. Mike appeared to stretch out his fingers, slowly brushing over the back of Will's hand.

That made his heart flutter. Will buried his head in the pillow, and reached out a little bit more, so that their hands could overlap. He loved feeling the warmth of Mike's hand, it slowly spreading onto his own. Mike slowly moved his fingers, stroking other's hand and shortly after, he intertwined his fingers with Will's.

Will knew Mike liked Eleven. It was obvious by now. But somehow he caught himself thinking, that maybe, Mike actually likes him. Will understood it's stupid, he shook off the thought as soon as it crossed his mind. Mike always was like this to him, never shying any

contact. This doesn't mean anything he wanted it to mean. It is simple as that. Will concentrated himself on the feeling of his own hand in Mike's palm. Who knew when Mike stops being this close to him, when he realizes that he shouldn't do that.

When he starts doing this with Eleven.

Will's eyes suddenly flung open. He stared onto his pillow for a moment, before he realized his eyes aren't closed anymore. He wanted to close them and go back to trying to fall asleep, but he couldn't. The thought of Mike holding hands with Eleven instead of him was just as effective as a nightmare. And knowing it might be the last time they are this close, Will just couldn't end this moment and fall asleep.

His eyes got used to the darkness by now. Giving up on his sleep, he turned his head to the side. And then he saw Mike's face. Will was sure Mike was about to sleep too, but now he saw that Mike was watching him back. He did look at Will, but somehow it also felt like he looks right through him, lost in thought. They didn't say anything, and kept staring at each other for several seconds. It was dark, but Will still could see all Mike's characteristics. The dark hair, pale skin overflowing with freckles, his big eyes and bright lips. He just couldn't avert his gaze. But then, suddenly, Mike's expression changed from his gentle, a little bit sleepy look to a surprise. He turned his face away, to his pillow and closed his eyes, as if trying to sleep now. Will was taken aback by that. His eyes widened as he tried to understand what just happened. Did he see a blush? No, it is too dark too see anyways.

Will let out a small sigh, and closed his eyes again. He felt that Mike squeezed his hand a little stronger. Will, not opening his eyes anymore, pressed his hand a little in response, and slowly dozed off.